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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 /074 W  
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O R 202143Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6196  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

( ) In Part (☒) In Full ~~DECONTROL~~

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 4735

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SHUM, ILO, AR, OAS

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO FREE LABOR LEADERS

1. THE JUNE 20 PRESS IN BUENOS AIRES CARRIES PROMINENTLY FEATURED STORIES ANNOUNCING THE IMMINENT RELEASE OF PERONIST TRADE UNION LEADERS. IN A RADIO INTERVIEW EVENING JUNE 19 FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA, MONSIGNOR ANTONIO PLAZA, ARCHBISHOP OF LA PLATA, STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT TOLD HIM THE GOVT HAD ORDERED THE RELEASE OF FOURTEEN TRADE UNION LEADERS BEING HELD IN PRISON AND THAT THE GOA WOULD STUDY THE CASES OF THE TOP PERONIST UNION LEADERS BEING HELD IN THE MAGDALENA MILITARY PRISON.

2. COMMENT: OVER THE PAST YEAR, TRADE UNION LEADERS HAVE BEEN AMONG OTHER CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS PERIODICALLY RELEASED FROM THE PEN. ARCHBISHOP PLAZA'S STATEMENT CONCERNING 14 LEADERS PRESUMABLY RELATES TO OTHERS STILL HELD UNDER PEN. AMONG THE TOP LABOR LEADERS HELD AT MAGDALENA (SINCE THE 1976 COUP) ARE METALWORKER CHIEF LORENZO MIGUEL, CONSTRUCTION WORKERS LEADER ROGELIO PAPAGNO AND PETROLEUM WORKER LEADER DIEGO IBANEZ -- ALL THREE OF WHOM WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE

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DEPOSED REGIME OF MRS. PERON AND WHO ARE BEING HELD UNDER THE ACT OF INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

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3. EMBASSY CHECKING FURTHER.  
CASTRO

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